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No. 42.



GROUSE.

This is one of the rare wild fowl, but a great favorite, and commands a high price, whenever it appears in the market. The plains of Long Island are among the few of its haunts in this part of the Union, and there its spacious and solitary retreat is so often intruded upon by sportsmen, that it has become a very difficult enterprise to procure and even to discover it in any considerable numbers.

The Grouse is ranked with the gallinaceous birds; and Cuvier gives it a middle place, under that of his fourth order, after the Hocco, Peacock, Turkey, Guinea fowl, and Tetrao, and before the Ptarmigan, Partridge, Quail, Tinamous and Pigeon. It possesses the leading characteristics of the Gallinaceæ, the order having derived that name from their resemblance to the Gallus, or common domestic fowl; that is, having, ac-

According to Cuvier, "the upper mandible (or bill) arched, the nostrils pierced in a broad membranous space at the base of the beak, and covered by a cartilaginous scale; a heavy gait, short wings and bony breast-bone, diminished by two emarginations, or extensions, so wide that they occupy nearly the whole sides; the crest of the breast-bone truncated obliquely forward, so that the sharp point of the fourchette, or fork, is joined to it only by a ligament, circumstances which, greatly impairing the strength of the pectoral muscles, render it difficult for them to fly.

When we carve any of the gallinaceous or fowl kind, if we but observe these particulars, we may easily understand the cause of their flying but little. The merry thought, or fourchette, is so formed and placed that it prevents the muscles which move the wings from giving them the great power required to carry a large bird through the air. The fowls have strong legs and feet, well adapted to standing, walking and running, to make amends for this deficiency.

The fowls generally have fourteen quills in the tail, though sometimes eighteen. They all lay their eggs upon the ground, except the Hocco alone, making nothing worthy of the name of a nest, never doing more than to make a hollow in a bunch of grass or hay, like the barn-door hen.

The species of fowls called Tetrao, which comprises the Partridge, (or Pheasant of some states,) is distinguished from its congeners, (or the birds of the same kind,) by several well-marked characteristics. In the place of the eye-brow is a naked band. The feet are covered with feathers, and the legs are destitute of spurs. It has a round or forked tail and naked toes.

In some varieties the feathers on the neck of the male are turned up like a collaret or two scrolls. In habits they are quite unlike the Turkey.

The Tetrao Cupido, (as Gmelin calls the bird on our frontispiece,) or the Prinnated Grouse, is described by Cuvier as "variegated with fawn color and brown; tail brown, legs feathered to the toes; the feathers on the bottom of the neck of the male turn up in two pointed scrolls, beneath which is a naked skin, which he inflates like a bladder; his voice sounds like a trumpet. It is found on extensive plains, and is such delicious food,

that game laws have been made in some countries for their protection."

The inflated skin mentioned above is the most singular peculiarity of the grouse. It looks like two half oranges on his throat.

To not a few of our readers, we hope, this very harmless and curious fowl will be interesting on other accounts, than as a delicacy for the table. Its harmless nature, which is well expressed in its innocent looks and timid disposition, with its love of solitude, and the impressive loveliness of its favorite retreats, may well present moral attractions to the reflecting mind and the sensitive heart. Many persons there will be, who can find nothing to recommend the grey grouse to their attention, except in the form of a dish prepared for a repast; but those who have a taste for the beauties of nature, and especially one improved and guided by the scientific study of the Almighty's works, will take interest in this and others of the feathered tribe, for widely different reasons. With the exception of our native singing birds, there is no class of birds perhaps so naturally attractive to us as the fowls, to which the grouse belongs, because of their utility, and chiefly because they are so generally known to us from childhood. We may, with propriety, add hereafter facts relating to that universal acquaintance and favorite, the barn-door fowl, which we had not room to insert in the notices we have heretofore published (with prints) of two of its newly imported varieties, the Dorking and Cochin China fowls. (See *Am. Penny Magazine*, Nos. 10 and 11, pages 145 and 169.) The following paragraph, we extract from Bement's Poulterer's Companion, page 130.

"The cock, by some writers, was supposed to be of Persian origin; but the period of their servitude is hidden in the remotest age of the world. The acquisition of the fowl species has not, in all possibility, been an easy conquest; to succeed in bringing them into complete bondage, a long series of attempts and cares has doubtless preceded the successes we now enjoy, without being acquainted to to whom we are indebted for them. The species has been since propagated and introduced into general use throughout the whole world, from east to west, from the burning climate of India to the frozen zone. They may be looked upon as a blessing to humanity.— Among every polished nation on earth, and even among nations half-civilized, but united in sedentary societies, there is no country habitation around which fowls are not met with, which man rears, shelters, and nourishes.

Reception of the Pottawatamies by the President.—The Pottawatamie Indians visited the President, accompanied by their agent, Col. R. S. Elliott, for the purpose of paying their respects to him as the head of the Government. Half Day, the Pottawatamie orator, expressed to the President the gratification which they all felt on seeing and shaking hands with their great Father. The President replied, that he was pleased to see them; that some of them were old men, who had come a long distance to attend to what they considered matters of importance; and that they should be patiently heard, and full justice done to them. The government, he said, desired to preserve relations of friendship and peace with all the Indian tribes; he trusted that before he left the city all their business would be satisfactorily arranged, and that the hatchet between the red and the white man might long remain buried.

Half Day rejoined that they had great respect for the Government of the United States; that they had sold to the Government all their country upon the great lakes; that they never refused their Great Father when he asked them for land; that their reply was like that of good children, always "Yes;" that they could not help looking back to the fine country which they had parted with, where they had left the bones of their grandfathers; that the country is no longer theirs, but they love it still, and when they think of it their hearts are sad. They had now, he said, a country which they were told was to be their home as long as the sun shines and water flows; where they were to grow up like the grass of the prairies. It was a good country, he said, and they love it. They had always lived up to their promise with the Government. But they had been asked to go South-West of the Missouri, and are in trouble, for they know not what to do. Eleven winters ago they were told, he said, that if they had but one wigwam on their present lands, they would see there all that had been promised them; but they had not seen it all, and therefore had come all the way to Washington to inquire of their Great Father concerning it; that there was a cloud before their eyes, which they hoped he would take away. You are from the West, said he to the President, and know what your red children want; we look to you for justice.

The President replied that the government would act in good faith toward them, that the bargains with them had been voluntarily made on their part, and should be scrupulously fulfilled by the government; and that the Secretary of War would see that they were heard and treated properly.

The President further said that he would see them, and shake hands with them again when they got their business adjusted.

The Indians then took leave by shaking hands with the President, the Secretary of War, &c.

AUTUMN.

From Gallagher's "Miami Woods."

The Autumn Time is with us!—Its approach
Was heralded, not many days ago,
By hazy skies, that veil'd the bazon sun,
And sea-like murmurs from the rustling corn,
And low voiced brooks, that wandered drowsily

By purpling clusters of the juicy grape,
Swinging upon the vine. And now, 'tis here!
And what a change hath passed upon the face

Of Nature, where the waving forest spreads,
Then robed in deepest green! All through
the night

The subtle frost hath plied its mystic art;
And in the day the golden sun hath wrought
The wonders; and the winds of morn and even
Have touch'd with magic breath the changing
leaves.

And now, as wanders the dilating eye
Athwart the varied landscape, circling far,
What gorgeousness, what blazonry, what
pomp

Of colors, bursts upon the ravished sight!
Here, where the maple rears its yellow crest,
A golden glory: yonder, where the oak
Stands monarch of the forest, and the ash
Is girt with flame-like parasite, and broad
The dogwood spreads beneath, a rolling field
Of deepest crimson; and afar, where looms
The gnarled gum a cloud of bloodiest red!

Out in the woods of Autumn, I have cast
Aside the shackles of the town, that vex
The fetterless soul, and come to hide myself,
Miami! in thy venerable shades.
Low on thy bank, where spreads the velvet
moss,

My limbs recline. Beneath me silver-bright,
Glide the clear waters, with a plaintive moan
for summer's parting glories. High o'erhead,
Seeking the sedgy lakes of the warm South,
Sails tireless the unerring waterfowl,
Screaming among the cloud racks. Oft from
where,

Erect on mossy trunk the partridge stands,
Bursts suddenly the whistle clear and loud,
Far-echoing through the dim wood's fretted
aisles.

Deep murmurs from the trees, bending with
brown

And ripened mast, are interrupted now
By sounds of dropping nuts; and warily
The turkey from the thicket comes, and swift
As flies an arrow darts the pheasant down,
To batten on the autumn; and the air,
At times, is darkened by a sudden rush
Of myriad wings as the wild pigeon leads
His squadrons to the banquet. Far away,
Where the pawpaw its mellow fruitage yields,
And thick, dark clusters of the wild grape
hang,

And nuts lie heaped beneath the naked tree,
The merry laugh of childhood, and the shout
Of truant schoolboy, ring upon the air.

SKETCHES OF LONDON.

Messrs. Editors.—I have remarked in a former communication, that the narrow and crowded streets of London presented an unpleasant aspect to the stranger, and also contributed to the production of disease; and while the same opinion is now reiterated, it becomes necessary at the same time to advert to certain mitigating circumstances. These are the *Squares* and *Parks*. What is known under the name of the "West End," is measurably free from the narrow and crowded streets of the business part of the city; there the nobility and wealthy part of the community occupy splendid mansions on the margin of beautiful green squares and parks, contrasting strongly but beautifully with other parts. These parks and squares may be properly termed the branches or breathing places of this great city, and we must admit that they contribute in no small degree to its comfort, health, and beauty.

One of the principal squares is TRAFALGAR SQUARE; it has a base, balustrades, and terrace of stone, the whole presenting the appearance of having been hewn from a solid rock. At one side stands the Nelson Monument, which consists of a fluted granite pillar, 176 feet high, surmounted with a Corinthian capital of gun metal, on the top of which stands a colossal figure of Nelson, 18 feet high. On the opposite side of the square is an equestrian statue of George IV. Grosvenor Square contains six acres, in the centre of which is an equestrian statue of George I. erected in 1726. It is enclosed in a handsome iron railing, and the whole tastefully laid out in walks and shrubbery. Russel Square is laid out with great taste and beauty, and contains in its centre, a fine statue of the Duke of Bedford. Soho, St. James, Leicester, Bloomsbury, Easton, Fitzroy, Bedford, and, I had almost said, hundreds of others, deserve particular attention for their beauty as well as utility; but we have not space to describe them. We must not omit to mention, however, that noted square, Lincoln's Inn Fields. This square is said to be the same extent as the base of the largest Egyptian pyramid. On one side is the splendid building of the Royal College of Surgeons, one of the best endowed institutions of London. Contiguous to this square is Lincoln's Inn, which is occupied by the Lord Chancellor and the Vice-Chancellor's Courts.

But if the squares claim our attention as works of pleasure and utility, the parks will excite our admiration for their extent and beauty. The principal of these are St. James', Green, Hyde, and Regent Parks.

St. James' Park occupies what was originally an extensive Morass; it was enclosed and laid out into walks and gardens by Henry VIII., as pleasure grounds to St. James' Palace, the residence, at that period, of the Sovereign. This park contains about 160 acres, and is beautifully laid out in gravelled walks, shrubbery, exotic and domestic trees,

and in the summer ornamented with numerous and beautiful parterres, and the whole refreshed by a broad sheet of water winding through the centre. The principal entrance is from Whitehall, through the Horse Guards, where some of the horsemen are always on duty, as if watching for the approach of an enemy. The entrance leads to a large open space, in which large bodies of troops are frequently reviewed, and where several regiments may be seen manoeuvring every Sunday morning at 10 o'clock. At the opposite extremity from the Horse Guards, stands Buckingham Palace, the residence of Queen Victoria and his Royal Highness, Prince Albert. Extending entirely around the park are broad avenues for carriages and horsemen. This Park is one of the most fashionable walks in London, and often contains many thousand persons. Here sportive childhood delights to witness the gambols of the aquatic birds, or the humble sparrows, as they pick the crumbs, freely distributed by their juvenile visitors; here may be seen the gay and thoughtless youth, the decrepid old man; the thoughtful of mature age; the belle and the beau; all mingling in one mass, and constituting a throng so dense as almost to preclude the possibility of passing. St. James' Park, when thus crowded, presents one of the most animated scenes that can be witnessed in London.

Adjoining the last is the Green Park, which, however, is less improved than the preceding, but, nevertheless, possesses great beauty and is much frequented. At the north-west extremity, it opens into Piccadilly, and to the left may be seen the grand entrance gates to Buckingham Palace. The gates are composed of bronzed iron, and are of incredible strength. On the opposite side of Piccadilly is a triumphal arch, forming a grand entrance to Hyde Park. It is composed of three archways, supported by a screen of fluted Ionic columns, the whole front extending 107 feet. Immediately adjoining this gateway, to the right, is Apsley House, the residence of the Duke of Wellington. The front of the Duke's house is protected by a high enclosure, for the purpose, it would seem, of guarding against an accident which occurred several years since; I refer to his windows being broken in by a mob; and it is curious to observe, that some of these broken windows are not repaired, but those uninjured are carefully protected by iron blinds.

But the most magnificent of these grounds is Hyde Park. Standing at the western extremity of the city, it embraces an area of 395 acres. Directly opposite the entrance stands a colossal statue of Achilles, cast from twelve twenty-four pounders taken at the battles of Salamanca, Vittoria, Toulouse, and Waterloo, to the honor of the Duke of Wellington. This Park is not so highly ornamented as that of St. James, but its greater extent and general beauty render it unsurpassed by any other in London. Foot-paths traverse it in various

directions, and clumps of trees, small forests, and a grassy surface, combine to spread a charm over this delightful retreat. Along its western border winds an artificial river, giving a freshness to the whole scenery of the most enchanting character. A broad swarth avenue surrounds the entire park, along which horsemen and carriages freely pass. Here the aristocracy may be seen, of an afternoon, in great numbers and in their most brilliant costumes. The most elegant carriages, drawn by superb horses, each with postillions and footmen, pass in endless succession, until the eye wears in looking upon the immense throng. And, in addition to this circular belt of carriages which surrounds the park, its interior is not less animated by the presence of thousands of pedestrians.

The last that I shall mention is Regent's Park. This enclosure contains 360 acres, and is tastefully laid out in gardens, lawns, waterfalls, ornamented bridges, and fine roads. In the centre is the Royal Botanic Garden, under the patronage of Her Most Gracious Majesty. But the greatest attraction here is the Zoological Gardens. Here a most extensive collection of wild animals may be seen: but the greatest curiosity consists in placing them under circumstances as nearly as possible approaching their natural states. The collection is already very large, and is constantly increasing, and is already superior to the celebrated Jardin des Plantes of Paris.

After viewing the various parks, we cannot but say that they are among the most beautiful and useful places of recreation in London. Here, the laborer who has toiled six days in the midst of filth and stagnant air, can breathe freely and enjoy the sweets of a fresh air. And even to the higher class, it is inexpressibly delightful to find themselves suddenly removed from the densely populated city to the cool retreats of the shady forest.

The Thames, as a river, would scarcely be countenanced in the United States. London is about sixty miles from the mouth, and above the city it is not navigable for more than thirty miles, and that only by steamboats of the smallest size. But the tide rises at London bridge about twenty feet, so that the heaviest shipping can ascend with perfect ease. At low water, it is only about eight hundred feet wide. Several magnificent bridges have been erected over the river, and one of cast iron, and one suspension bridge of superior construction.

The almost innumerable steamboats, ships, and various smaller sailing vessels, together with small rowing crafts, give the river a degree of animation unequalled by any other water. It is curious and interesting to witness the number and speed of the steamboats. These vessels are small, built very sharp, and intended alone for speed, with the view of conveying passengers between London and the various points of interest in the vicinity. Their speed is very great, and so perfect is the control exercised over them, that they will

dash on at full speed to within a few feet of another boat or a pier, and when we think it almost certain that a fearful collision must take place, the boat is either suddenly backed, or goes off in another direction, with the grace and agility of a water fowl. The superintendent of the vessel, or the "captain," stands upon the wheel-house, and without uttering a word, but simply by signs, gives his commands, which pantomime is duly interpreted by a boy stationed over the engineer, and the word is passed down by him. Below London bridge, the river is almost entirely blockaded by ships and other sailing vessels, though the principal ships go into some of the docks.

The Thames Tunnel extends under the river, and is situated about two miles below London bridge. The Tunnel consists of a mass of brick work 37 by 22 feet, through which run two archways, constructed for foot passengers and carriages; each arch is 16 feet in width. Its entire length is twelve hundred feet; it is reached by steps of more than 100 feet in height. The carriage way has never been extended out, and it is doubtful whether it ever will be. As a work of art, the Tunnel must command our admiration, but on the score of utility, it is more questionable, for the carriage way has been already partially, if not wholly abandoned, and the communication between the parts of the city which it connects could have been accomplished by boats; but the work is wonderful, and is justly regarded with pride by the English. (See No. 5, page 70.)

Few public edifices will attract more attention than Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral. Of Westminster Abbey it will be impossible to give a satisfactory description in a short space, we can therefore barely indicate some of its principal features. The Abbey was built by Henry III., enlarged at different periods, and was finally completed by Sir Christopher Wren. The building is constructed in the most beautiful style of Gothic Architecture: the exterior, as a whole, will strike the observer as belonging to other days, and representing persons and habits long since passed away. The extreme length of the building is 530 feet, and the height of the towers 225 feet. The interior of the building, especially viewed from the west, strikes the beholder with astonishment when he contemplates the extent and beauty of the structure; and added to this, the solemnity inspired by its somewhat gloomy aspect, and the innumerable tombs in every direction gives it an ensemble entirely unique. Lofty pillars supporting Gothic arches, the height of the roof and the long perspective galleries and stained glass windows, make up a view of exceeding beauty and grandeur. In the great western window are paintings of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob, Moses, Aaron, and the Twelve patriarchs; the arms of King Seber, King Edward the Confessor, Queen Elizabeth, King George and Dean Wilcock,

Bishop of Rochester. This window was erected in 1735. In other windows are to be seen paintings of Edward the Black Prince, Virgin Mary, St. John the Baptist, the Savior, Twelve Apostles, and Four Evangelists, etc. The Abbey has long been the Mausoleum of the Kings, Queens, poets and heroes of England, and we find here the tombs and monuments of the good, the great and the vicious, the christian and the infidel, the murderer and the just man.

Entering the south Transept, we come to what is called the Poet's corner, so called from the tombs, monuments and busts of celebrated poets here found. Here rest Ben Johnson, Samuel Butler, John Milton, Gray, Dryden, Shakspeare, Thompson, (author of the "Seasons,") Goldsmith, (poet, physician, historian,) etc.

Some of the ancient epitaphs are curious from their peculiarity of language and orthography; that of Edmund Spencer runs thus: "Heare lyes (expecting the second cominge of our Saviour, Christ Jesus,) the body of Edmond Spencer, the prince of poets in his tyme, whose divine spirit needs noe othir witnesse than the workes which he left behinde him." And that of Nathan Prior, written by himself:—

"To me 'tis given to dye, to you 'tis given
To live; one monument sets us eve;
Mark how impartial is the will of Heaven."

And again the epitaph of Geoffrey Chaucer:—"He lieth buried to fore the chapels of Seyenthe Benet, by whos sepulture is wretton on a table hanging on a pylere his epytaphye, maad by a poete laureat." We cannot even refer to the numerous tombs and monuments, amounting to near four hundred, which are found in this remarkable place. In addition to the south and north Transepts, and the Naive, are nine chapels, which contain the tombs and monuments of the royal and distinguished personages. In the Naive I observed a monument erected to the memory of Major Andre, who was executed as a spy during our Revolutionary war; Lord Viscount Howe, killed in America in 1758; Pitt; John Friend, M. D.; Richard Mead, M. D.; Henry Purcell, the great English composer, with this inscription by Dryden:—"Left this life, and is gone to that blessed place where only his harmony can be exceeded;" Wilberforce; Sir Isaac Newton; Lord Mansfield; Canning; Matthew Bailie, M. D.; Sir H. Davy; and, asking forgiveness, for any seeming want of gravity, here also is the tomb of—*John Smith*.

One of the most interesting among the chapels is that of Henry VII. Here is a magnificent tomb, on which are effigies, designed for likenesses of Henry and his Queen, Elizabeth. "And in the sides and both ends of our said towmbe we wol tabernacles be graven, and the ame to be filled with ymages, specially of our said Avouries (or patron saints) of copper and gilte." Edward the Sixth was buried under the altar. In this

chapel also are the tombs of Mary Queen of Scotts; Charles II.; William III.; Queen Mary; Queen Anne; George II.; Queen Elizabeth; Edward V., &c. In Edward the Confessor's chapel, is a curious Mosaic Shrine of Edward the Confessor, erected in the centre of the chapel. Here also is a Mosaic tomb and canopy of Henry III.; tomb of Henry V., with a headless statue. This statue is reputed to have had a golden head, which was carried off in the time of Cromwel. Tomb of Queen Philippe. Edward III., Richard II. and his Queen, Edward I., Queen Editha, wife of Edward the Confessor, and Maud, Queen of Henry I., are also buried here but have no monuments.

As objects of no inconsiderable interest, the ancient Coronation Chairs, which stand in this chapel, may be mentioned. These are two plainly constructed chairs, one for the King and the other for the Queen Consort, to be used only on the occasion of the Coronation. One was constructed by Edward I., and the other is supposed to have been made by order of William and Mary. In the chair constructed by Edward I., is the famous Scotch Stone, brought to England with the Regalia by Edward.

"Kyng Edward with the lang shankers fro Scotland
hit fette
Buyde the shrine of Seynt Edward at Westminster het
hitte sette."

This stone was superstitiously called Jacob's Pillow, it was brought from Sconce, in Scotland, in 1267, and the reverence in which it was held may be inferred from the following lines inscribed on it by King Kenneste:—

"Where'er this stone is found, or fate's decree is
vain,
The Scots the same shall hold, and there supremely reign."

This stone has been the subject of treaties, arising from a desire on the part of the Scots in consequence of this strange superstition, to regain possession of it, and it has been supposed that the removal of this venerated object to England induced the Scots to consent to a union with that country, under the superstitious belief expressed in the above distich. It was on this stone that "the Kings, which ruled over the Scottish men, received the crowne;" and it has been, strangely enough, placed under the seat of the Coronation Chair of England.

I must not fail to notice a singular, and I think may be added, characteristic event, shown in the chapel of St. John the Baptist. Here is the tomb of Thomas Cecil, Earl of Exeter, and his first wife, figures of the two being placed on the top; but as the Earl had married a second time, space was reserved on his left for the last wife. But with that majesty and pride of character which alone belongs to woman, she refused to be buried there, because she was to be placed on her husband's left, while the first wife rested on his right!

In casting a glance over Westminster Abbey, and observing that the memories of warriors, actors and orators are enshrined,—that he who has shed most freely the blood of his fellow-deings stands in the boldest relief, we can but exclaim, what has all this to do with a house of worship? It is a singular fact, that not one of the 240 pieces of sculpture, and events which they commemorate, found in the Transepts and Naive, have the slightest religious association: and while we may admire the beauty of the sculpture, and the skill of the artist, and dwell with satisfaction on the deeds of valor commemorated by the monument, the Priest at the Altar, and the object of his teachings are forgotten, and the devotional feeling inspired by the ancient tombs is lost in contemplating the bloody deeds, conventionally denominated deeds of valor, of the warrior. Prayers are read here daily from ten to eleven and from three to four. The Coronation of the Sovereigns also takes place at Westminster Abbey.

AGRICULTURAL.

To the Editor of the Am. Penny Magazine.

DEAR SIR.—Aware of the importance at present attached to the subject of manures, and of the efforts made at enlightenment thereon, I send you the following for dissemination through the columns of your paper.

There is a farmer in one county, who in early life paid considerable attention to the subject of geology, and has, since becoming a practical agriculturist, turned this knowledge to good account in various ways. He has procured a small auger, with which he has been in the habit of boring into the earth upon different parts of his own farm, examining and analysing the different formations, and making himself more thoroughly acquainted with the variety of soils in his neighborhood. His labors in this respect have been lately most richly rewarded, in the discovery, upon a part of his farm, of a valuable *marl bed*. It lies about three feet below the surface, and is many feet in depth, and of unknown extent. The deposit is stored with large quantities of shells, bearing undoubted evidence of having been deposited here by the salt water, as they bear no resemblance to fresh water productions. The marl, when exposed to the air and dried, has much the appearance of lime after it has been slaked.

The gentleman has not yet had an opportunity of testing its enriching properties; yet he expresses himself firmly of the opinion, that it will be far more valuable to him than any other kind of manure, with the exception perhaps of Guano, which it is some-

what difficult for our inland farmers at present to obtain.

My main object, in sending you this notice, is that the farmers in our country generally may be encouraged to make similar researches, and to discover whatever hidden sources of wealth may be buried within the bosom of their respective domains.

A Subscriber from Washington Co.

P. S.—It is our design in a few days to examine, as nearly as possible, by boring, the extent of this bed. If you should see fit to publish this, I may send you another communication, giving more particular accounts of the soil surrounding and covering the bed, the kind of rock in the vicinity, &c.

[We return our thanks to our intelligent and public-spirited "Subscriber," and request him to write us the result of his proposed examination.]

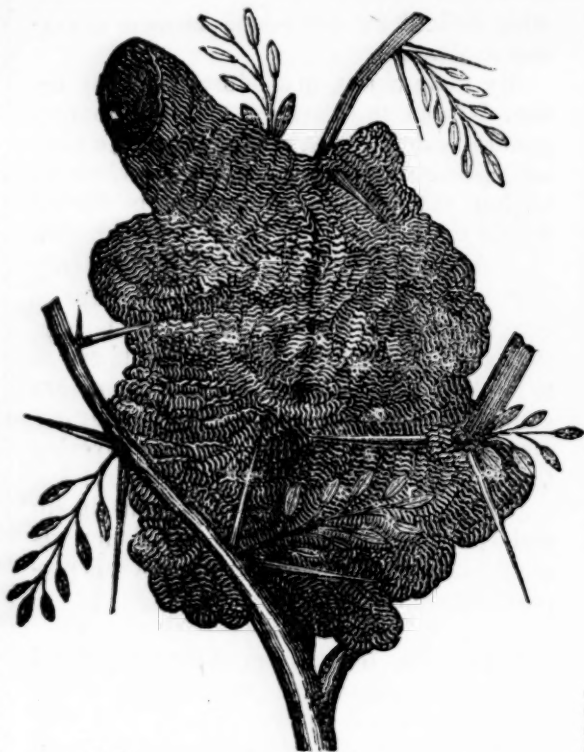
ITALY.—A letter from Florence, dated Oct. 9, announces that the troubles in the Roman states had entirely ceased, and that the insurgents who had succeeded in escaping from the Pontifical and Austrian soldiers had dispersed in the Appennines.

SWITZERLAND.—Geneva, Oct. 10.—No events have occurred of late calculated to interest the foreign reader.

The war between the Jesuits and the Radicals continues as intense as ever; but luckily, instead of being carried on with swords, and pistols, and stout sticks, it is fought out in the newspapers. The consequence is, that it does not do much harm.

Accounts from Lucerne state that two captains in the army of that canton, named Barte and Ulmi, have been sentenced to death for the part they took against the government in the late rebellion; but it is supposed that the Grand Council will spare their lives.

SINGULAR DISCOVERY.—A Vermont paper states that while some workmen were digging near the granite bridge in Manchester, they came to several maple and oak logs on a gravelly bottom twenty feet below the surface. In one of the logs was a hive of bees, a good deal decayed, but still in a tolerable state of preservation—the wings, legs, etc. of the little laborers being perfectly distinguishable. Several oil nuts were also discovered, whole and sound. It is but a short time since large trees, a century old, whose trunks were imbedded in the soil, were growing upon the spot. Probably this miniature Herculaneum, while "teeming with life and industry," was buried in the earth long ago by a slide from the elevations in its neighborhood.



NEST OF THE PINC-PINC.

The Pinc-pinc is one of the felt makers; that is, a bird which constructs its nest of a substance resembling closely battled wool.—The following description from Le Vaillant's *Travels in Southern Africa*, like most of his writings, is more entertaining and instructive than any thing else that we would lay before our readers on this subject:—

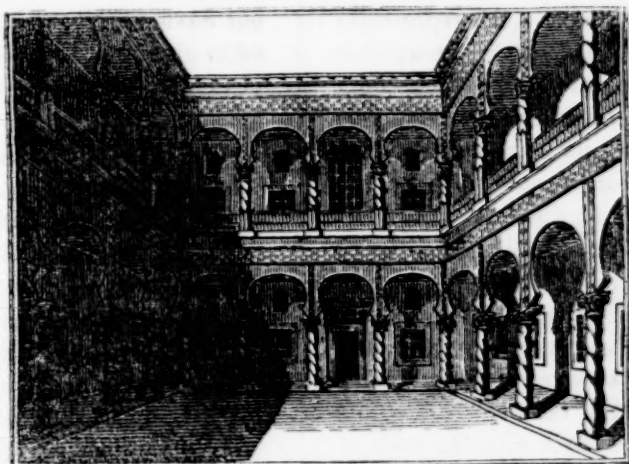
"The nest of the pinc-pinc," says Vaillant, "is usually placed among prichly shrubs, particularly the mimosas, but sometimes on the extreme branches of trees. It is commonly very large, though some are larger than others: but the difference is only in the external appearance; in the interior they are of the same dimensions, namely from three to four inches in diameter, while the circumference of the exterior is often more than a foot. As the nest is wholly composed of the down of plants, it is either of a snowy whiteness or of a brownish color, according to the quality of the down which is produced by the neighboring shrubs. On the outside it appears to be constructed in an irregular and clumsy manner, according to the situation of the branches upon which it is built, and to which it is so firmly attached, part of them passing through its texture, that it is impossible to remove it without leaving one half behind.

If, however, the nest have the appearance on the outside of being badly made, we shall be the more surprised, on looking into the interior, that so small a creature, without other instrument than its bill, its wings, and tail, could have wrought vegetable down in such

a manner as to render it as united and of a fine a texture as cloth, even of good quality. The nest in question is nearly of a round form, has a narrow neck made in its upper part, by which means the bird glides into the interior. At the base of this corridor there is a niche that has the appearance of a small nest resting against the large one; and at the Cape it is generally supposed that this niche was made expressly for the male to sit upon, in order to keep watch while the female is hatching her eggs, and that he may apprize her of danger when she is at the bottom of the nest and unable to observe an enemy on the outside. This idea, I must confess, is rather ingenious; but I have ascertained that this sort of niche is not contrived for any such purpose. The male, indeed, sits on the eggs as well as the female, and when either of them is thus occupied, the other never remains as a sentinel at the nest. I am quite confident of this, from having found at least a hundred of these nests, and having watched and observed the birds for whole mornings together. This little recess appears to be nothing more than a perch, by means of which the pinc-pinc may pass more easily into its nest, which, without such a contrivance, it might find some difficulty in accomplishing, as it could not move through so small an opening on the wing; and as the outside of the nest is slightly formed, it would injure it were the bird constantly to rest upon it, while this little space is as strongly built as the interior of the nest. To give it the required solidity, the bird has no other means than beating with its wings, and turning its body in different directions, as I have elsewhere related of the capocier. (See the 3d number of this magazine, page 35.) In consequence of this method of working, the work must necessarily be rounded and have the appearance of a very small nest; a circumstance which has led to the belief that it was made solely for the accommodation of the male. This, however, is so far from being the fact, that when a branch is so situated as to render the entrance into the nest easy, the little cell is not found; and, besides, I found several of these nests with two or three perches, and others in which the perch had little of the form of a small nest.

In general, these perch-cells are so narrow that the bird, small as it is, could not well rest upon them; and it would be much more difficult for the bird to which Sonnerat attributes this nest. Besides, as I have already stated, I examined the proceedings of these birds whenever an opportunity occurred, and never once observed one placed in the niche as a watchbird; but I have seen the male and female, on arriving at the nest, perch themselves on the nearest bough, hop from this upon the edge of the perch-cell, and thrusting their heads into the hole, dart into the nest.

These birds are so tame that there is no need to stand at a distance in order to watch and observe them at leisure, since they will enter in their nest though any one be near them.



THE INTERIOR OF AN EASTERN HOUSE.

Dr. Shaw remarks, that "the general method of building in Barbary and in the Levant, seems to have continued the same from the earliest ages;" with "large doors, spacious chambers, marble pavements, cloistered courts, sometimes with fountains playing in the midst." Of this the American traveller becomes convinced, as soon as he sets his foot on almost any of those parts of the old world, where this taste has prevailed, for there at least some of its features are still to be found.

Such was our experience some years ago, on landing at Gibraltar, where many of the dwellings of the Spanish families, or Rock Scorpions, as they are commonly called, are built so as to enclose open squares; and afterwards, on visiting the remains of Pompeii, that plan was much more general. This form of building we looked upon with peculiar interest, and for reasons which it is not difficult to assign.

In the first place, there is something very agreeable to one of us, born and bred in a more ungenial clime, in being reminded of the perpetuity of milder seasons. This is a distinct enjoyment superadded to that of the present pleasure of the free open air, and unobstructed view of the sky, in the seclusion of home or the society of the family. But beyond this is another source of gratification. Affecting associations are awakened of some of the most interesting scenes, events and personages mentioned in that family and national book of Americans—the Bible. The sight of such a dwelling impresses us with distinct ideas of many circumstances with which we have become familiar from our childhood.

The print above given shows one of the

open courts which an eastern house encloses; and although in respect to size, height, number, furniture, decorations, and appurtenances, there was and still is much variety, the the general character in all cases is the same; seclusion, shade, light, fresh air, and a view of the sky. To these may be added, sufficient protection from the rain in mild climates, or at least for most parts of the years. In Spain this style of building prevails, having been perpetuated by the Moors, and probably extended by them, although, no doubt, introduced by the Romans. The Spaniards and Portuguese, in their turn, carried it with them to America. In monasteries it is very conspicuous, being exactly adapted to the seclusion chiefly aimed at in those institutions. The term cloister, (a closed or enclosed place,) expresses such a court as we are speaking of, formed on the large scale, appropriate to a monastery or a nunnery.

The principal defect which we find in a building constructed on this plan, is that it shuts out the view of everything without. It is true that, in most cities where it prevails, the streets are narrow, dirty, and unattractive; yet, such are our habits, that we cannot easily become reconciled to that degree of seclusion at all times which it usually secures. The front balconies which in some cases are placed over the streets, do not wholly supply the defect, in our view at least. If we may judge from the streets of Pompeii and Herculaneum, so far as they have been exhumed, the Roman streets presented few or no attractions. The Mahomedans' jealousy offers the Turks, Arabs, and Moors, another motive for admitting few or no front windows.

Our print is by no means a fair representation of the ordinary, or even the better class of dwellings constructed on this plan, either in ancient or in modern times. It is quite too large and magnificent for anything less than a noble residence, or a public institution. The finest houses in Pompeii show no court of half this magnitude or richness, although some of them have more than one. In general they are small and plain, of one low story, with a simple colonnade, a roof projecting over head, a paved centre, sloping gently to carry off the rain, and sometimes with a well, defended by a circular curb of white marble.

Many minute descriptions, with numerous fine colored drawings, illustrating the forms, plans, decorations and furniture of the dwellings of Pompeii, are to be seen in Gell's volumes on that subject. Others might be referred to, but that abounds with remarks and explanations, from which intelligent readers of all classes will derive great satisfaction. Many points it would be well if our builders and other mechanics were acquainted with. One practice we will here allude to, which prevailed among the Romans. They often made their doors narrower at the top than at the bottom, and this (as will be understood on a little reflection) made them shut themselves. This form, if adopted by us, would effectually supersede the use of springs, pulleys and weights, and what is still more important, the endless inconveniences arising from their neglect: the expense of fuel, chills, colds, coughs, consumptions, and other diseases, which, in our climate are the necessary results.

With respect to the Turkish houses of the present day, Dr. Shaw tells us, in conformity with other travellers, that a porch or gateway with seats on both sides opens upon the street, and leads to the court, which is furnished with benches for the reception of visitors by the master. This "resembles the *Impluvium*, or *Cava Œdium* of the Romans, both of them being open to the weather, and giving light to the house. When many people are to be admitted, as upon the celebration of a marriage, &c., the court is the usual place of reception, and is accordingly strewed with mats and carpets. Being also called *Woost*, (the middle of the house,) literally answering to "*To Meson*," (the midst,) mentioned in Luke v. 5, 19, it is probable that the place where

our Saviour and the Apostles were accustomed to give their instructions might have been in the like situation: that is, in the area, or quadrangle, of one of this kind of houses."

In the Summer season, and upon all occasions where a large company is to be received, it is commonly sheltered from the heat or inclemency of the weather, by a *velum*, umbrella, or veil, which being expanded on ropes from one side of the parapet wall to the other, which may be folded or unfolded at pleasure. The Psalmist seems to allude either to the tents of the Bedouens, or to some covering of this kind, in his beautiful expression, of spreading out the heavens as a veil or curtain.

The court is for the most part surrounded with a cloister, as the *Cava Œdium* of the Romans with a *Peristylum*, or colonnade; over which, when the house has two or more stories, there is a gallery erected, of the same dimensions with the cloister, leaving a balustrade, or else a piece of carved or latticed work going round about, to prevent people from falling from it into the court. From the cloisters and galleries we are conducted into large, spacious apartments, of the same length with the court, but seldom or never communicating with another. One of them frequently serves a whole family, particularly when a father indulges his married children to live with him, or when several persons join in the rent of the same house. Whence it is, that the cities in these countries, which, in general are much inferior in bigness to those of Europe, yet are so exceedingly populous, that great numbers of people are always swept away by the plague, or any other contagious distemper. A mixture of families of this kind seems to be spoken of by Maimonides, as quoted by Dr. Lightfoot, upon 1 Corinthians, 10, v. 16.

"In houses of better fashion, these chambers, from the middle of the wall downward, are covered and adorned with velvet or damask hangings of white, blue, red, green, or other colors, (see Esther 1, v. 6,) suspended on hooks or taken down at pleasure; but the upper part is embellished with more permanent ornaments, being adorned with the most ingenious wreathings and devices in stucco and fret work. The ceiling is of wainscot, either very heavily painted, or else thrown into a variety of pannels, with gilded mouldings, and scrolls of the Koran intermix-

ed. The prophet Jeremiah exclaims against some of the eastern houses, that were "ceiled with cedar, and painted with vermillion."—Jer. 12, v. 54. The floors were laid with painted tiles, or plaster of terrace; but, as these people make little or no use of chairs, either sitting cross-legged, or lying at length upon the floors, they always cover or spread them over with carpets, which for the most part are of the richest materials. Along the sides of the wall or floor, a range of narrow beds or mattresses is often placed on these carpets; indulgences that seem to be alluded to by the 'stretching themselves upon couches and sewing pillows upon arm-holes,' as we have it expressed in Amos, 16, v. 4, and Ezekiel 13, v. 18, 20. At one end of each chamber there is a little gallery, raised three, four or five feet above the floor, with a balustrade in the front of it, with a few steps likewise leading up to it. Here they place their beds, a situation frequently alluded in the Scriptures."

THE OLD INQUISITION AT AVIGNON.

FROM THE REV. MR. MITCHELL'S OBSERVATIONS IN EUROPE, IN 1844.

For the American Penny Magazine.

Avignon is on the east bank of the Rhine. It was for a time the seat of the Roman See. The palace of the popes is a vast pile, now considerably in ruins, but in some parts entire. Enough of it remains to tell more truth than the popes would care to have disclosed, either now or at the time it was occupied by them.

Avignon was at that time a considerable city, as it long had been. The arrival of the pope, with his train, together with all the illustrious strangers which his court brought together, ambassadors, princes, bishops, turned things upside down. The population of the place was at once doubled, and crowded to excess; its customs were changed, and its manners exceedingly debased. The palace which the popes built, corresponded with their ambition, and was suited to their ends; being at once a magnificent palace, a terrible prison, and a strong fortress. We went deliberately through it, accompanied by a grandam guide, who had grown old in her office, and who repeated her accustomed story of the different apartments, with the gestures, the solemn looks, the exclamations, and the whispers, that were suited to the subject, as it varied from the cheerful or indifferent, to the pathetic, the mysterious and the diabolical. The diabolical abounded. The apartments most interesting to see are those which pertained to the Inquisition.

In the room called the *Tribunal of the In-*

quisition, there is still legible on the wall against which the judges' seats were placed, a long Latin inscription, signifying that there was no appeal from that tribunal, and that the accused did not often leave it, but to go to their punishment. In the vault above there were concealed lobbies, in which clerks sat, to note down the responses of the accused. The trial was of course with closed doors.

The Hall of Torture is in one of the Towers. To prevent the possibility of the cries of the tortured being heard without the wall of the tower, which is octagonal, it is of great thickness, and the corners of the interior are finished in a kind of conchoidal shape, for the purpose of destroying all echo, and reducing the noise of the cries within. You here see the oven, or furnace, in which the accused were scorched; the stone basin, which held the boiling water; the place of the posts to which the victims were attached; and the opening through which the bodies were thrown down into the pit, of great depth, called the *glaciere*, or ice-house.

Chapel of the Inquisition.—I will only mention concerning this, that the ceiling is covered with religious paintings; that here, those condemned for heresy used to come, with a wax candle in the hand, to make "amende honorable," (so says one of my historians of the place) before going to their punishment; and that among the paintings you see a group of soldiers of the Inquisition accompanying a heretic to his execution.

Then there is the place called the *Bucher del' Inquisition*; that is, the *wood-house*, or the funeral pile, as you choose to render it. It was in this *bucher*, that those were executed who were condemned to the flames. You here see an iron chair on which the sufferer was placed, clothed with a shirt dipped in sulphur. The vault above is still blackened with the smoke of these burnings.

Dungeons of the Inquisition.—One of these is half fallen into ruins; another is entire. Its walls are covered with inscriptions written by its unhappy inmates, attesting their innocence and the cruelty of their treatment.

There is one dungeon belonging to this establishment, the existence of which was not known till within a very few years. It is deep and large, and frightful to look into through the trap door above. Some repairs were making in the room over it, and a portion of the floor being removed, one of the workmen lost his hat through, and on going down to get it, was shocked to find himself in a charnel house. Around him lay nineteen ghastly skeletons, supposed to have been victims of the Inquisition. I will mention but one more of the apartments, the *Salle Brulee*, or Burnt Hall. This is memorable for an act of vengeance perpetrated by one of the pope's legates in 1411. A nephew of the legate had insulted certain distinguished ladies of Avignon, whose parents punished the young man in a mortifying way. The

legate resolved to have revenge, but to make it more complete, dissembled his resentment for several years. He then made advances to the offended parents, to bring about a reconciliation; and when it appeared to be sincere, he invited to a splendid banquet the entire families of those concerned. A careless gaiety animated the repast; but while the dessert was served, a Swiss entered to inform the legate that a foreign ambassador solicited an audience extraordinary. He excused himself to the company, and withdrew, followed by his officers; a few minutes after, five hundred persons were buried in ruins. All that wing of the edifice in which the banquet was furnished, was blown up with a terrible explosion.

Hints for Ladies on the Care of Flowers.

THE CAMELLIA JAPONICA.

The soil which we consider best for camellias, and in which they are grown by them who cultivate them extensively in the neighborhood of London, is a strong, rich, yellow loam. If it is supposed to be too retentive of moisture, a portion of peat or bog-earth and sand, is generally mixed with it, and in this compost the plants grow vigorously.

Henderson puts in camellias at any time of the year, excepting when they are making young wood. He puts fifty cuttings in a pot of sand, eight inches in diameter, sets them in a cool place in the back of a vinery or peach-house, for a month or six weeks, then plunges them to the brim in a hot bed, while there is a little bottom heat.

The camellia may be considered as a hardy greenhouse plant, requiring only a slight protection, like the myrtle, in very severe weather; but, although it will thrive with this kind of treatment, yet to grow the varieties in the very best manner, a great degree of attention and care is necessary.

During the time the plants are in flower, when they ought, in addition, to be liberally supplied with water, and have a degree of heat somewhat more than is usually given to greenhouse plants. If this heat is not given in November and December, the plants will not expand their blossoms freely, and if both water and heat are not regularly applied after the blossoming season, vigorous shoots will not be produced.

Where there are conveniences for giving the plants different degrees of temperature, a succession of flowers may be had during all the year; but their natural time of flowering is in the months of February, March and April; they generally flower best when grown in small pots or tubs.

WATERING.—From the time they are potted until they have finished their growth, give them a plentiful supply of water.

SHADING.—Never allow camellias to be fully exposed to the rays of a mid-day sun. Either place them in a shady situation, or throw a mat or net over the glass, for they invariably flourish and look better under this than any other treatment.

CASTING BUDS.—The great reason why flower buds very often fall off, without properly coming into bloom, is the too sudden changes in the temperature to which they are exposed; for instance, when the buds are nearly ready to expand, a sudden heat causes them to push forth too rapidly; and, on the contrary, a decrease of warmth at that time checks their growth;—and in both cases causes them to fall.

WINTER QUARTERS.—About the end of September or beginning of October, or as soon as the weather begins to be very cold or wet, the plants must be taken into the house or frame, or any other cool but sheltered situation.

When it is wished to bring any of them into flower, remove them into an increased temperature; this may be done successively, which will greatly prolong the flowering season. The heat required to expand the blossom-buds is about 66 degrees Fahrenheit by day and 50 by night. If this be attended to, and the air never allowed to have a much greater or less heat, the plants will continue in flower for a great length of time. It should also be mentioned, that by this heat the plants are not excited to grow.

The camellia is so universally admired that most persons who have a taste for flowers are anxious to cultivate it; but many are deterred by a supposition that unless they have a greenhouse or conservatory they cannot possess so desirable an object with any degree of satisfaction. Although this idea is very prevalent, it is by no means correct: as any person, having a two-light frame, may grow it to perfection. Indeed, by attending to our directions it may be grown in a dwelling-house.—*Gardener and Practical Florist.*

Notices of Ships by Birds.

From the London Nautical Mag. for October.

The use of birds in carrying despatches we all know is a very ancient practice, and has been employed with much success. We heard of even a race the other day between the same kinds of birds of different breed, that confirmed the wonderful power of these

creatures in finding their homes from the distance of 25 miles at the rate of about a mile per minute. And not many weeks ago an account appeared in the papers of a bird arriving from Ichaboe, the famed Guano depot on the coast of Africa, at the enormous distance of 4600 miles. The account sent us by Mr. Peacock is interesting, in so far as it gives a practical proof of the approach of a vessel being accidentally announced at the very port of her destination nine days before she arrived there, and from a distance of about 2,000 miles. The amusement of thus sending off birds with such notices may be productive of benefit to trade; but while we point it out for the adoption of our nautical readers, we hope that we shall not be the means of bringing down acts of cruelty on the birds, whose powers of usefulness alone entitle them to kind treatment.

*Pacific Steam Navigation Co's Vessel
Chili, Arica, June 23d, 1845.*

On the 25th of May last, Capt. Farley, of the *Ann Baldwin*, lying the port of Iquique, (105 miles to the southward of this,) observed a Cape pigeon flying about the bay with a piece of wood dangling from its neck, and sent the mate after it, who succeeded in capturing it by a blow with an oar without killing it, and having taken off the piece of wood, of which the following is a copy the bird was set at liberty again in conformity with the request written on the billet—

BRIG
CAMANA,
I. HOODLESS, COMDR.,
Lat. 50 S., Long. 68 W.

ON THE REVERSE SIDE—

"Allow the bearer to pass. May 1845."

Capt. Farley on writing to his consignees at this port mentioned the circumstance, not knowing that the *Camana* was actually bound to Arica, and Capt. Hoodless, as may be supposed, was much astonished to find on his arrival nine days after the pigeon, that the messenger had taken so happy a direction in its flight. The piece of wood was given to me in Iquique to take down to Arica, and Capt. H. immediately recognized it as the same which he had fastened to the neck of a Cape pigeon off Cape Horn on the 5th of May, an entry of the circumstance having been made in the ship's log on that day by the mate. The inscriptions were etched in with a fork to the soft fir,

and afterwards inked over so that they had not suffered in the least from exposure to the weather.

I should strongly recommend to all commanders of vessels this practice of billeting Cape pigeons; from the parallels of 25 to 60 degrees south they abound, and may be caught at any hour of the day or night required, by simply towing a piece of twine with a cork at the end of it, in which they entangle their wings, and it would only be an amusement to despatch one every day at noon, with the ship's position, &c., as by this simple means vessels could be reported; for the birds, although encumbered still follow in the tracks or wakes of vessels they meet with. I have seen more than one with a frill of red flannel round its neck, following the vessel I was on board of, although it had not been put on by any of our crew.

In a calm they may be caught by hand, by sprinkling a little fat over the side; in fact, by this mode you may single out any particular bird: for unlike any other of the feathered tribe, except the booby or penguin on shore, (or the former when roosting on the yards or rigging at night,) they will allow themselves to be captured two or three times consecutively, if not ill treated. I remember an instance of this kind on board this steamer in the port of Copiapo; a number of them had followed the vessel from off Valparaiso, and whilst at anchor some of the passengers amused themselves by catching these birds by hand, off the accommodation ladder, putting a piece of cloth like a poncho over their heads, and letting them go again; but, on sprinkling more fat over the side they still came back, and were caught a second time. They appear to have no fear, and on being taken, merely utter a croaking sound like a young raven, and discharge from their beaks about a teaspoonful of clear oil.

The Cape Pigeon is a very pretty bird; it is mottled, black and white in the bends, the black spot being oval, all under the belly and wings it is white, the head and legs black. There is another variety of an ash color without spots. They much resemble the common pigeon, but are not so large; they fly very swiftly, without any apparent exertion, and seem never to tire; for whatever rate a vessel is sailing or steaming at, they fly across and across the wake, and follow day and night for hundreds of leagues. I have never met them north of the line.

GEO. PEACOCK,

(See No. 1. page 4th, of this Magazine.)

MISCELLANEOUS.

ERUPTION OF HECLA.—The Kjobenhavns-post, a Danish journal, gives the following account of the new eruption of Mount Hecla:—Hecla, after reposing 80 years, threatens, according to private letters, to ravage Iceland. In the night of the 1st of September, a frightful subterranean groaning filled the inhabitants around it with terror. This continued till mid-day on the 21, when the mountain burst in two places with a horrible crash, and vomitted masses of fire. In former times these explosions came from the summit, where Hecla has no regularly formed crater; but this time torrents of lava flowed down two gorges on the flanks of the mountain.—Letters from Reikjafk of the 13th states that up to that day no great damage had been done in the Sysells of Rangervalla and Arnds, situated close to the mountain, inasmuch as the openings whence the ignited masses issue are fortunately on the north and north-west sides, and consequently, took that direction, in which there is nothing but barren heather. Besides, the wind having consequently blown from the south and south-west, has driven the ashes and dust towards the opposite points. From the clouds of smoke and vapour the top of the volcano could not be seen. The sheep on the heaths were driven down on the plains, but not till several of them were burnt. The waters of the neighboring rivers near the eruption became so hot that the fish were killed, and it was impossible for any one to ford them even on horseback. Although the lava and ashes took a northern direction, the eruption was not known on that side of the island till after the 11th, and even as late as the 15th the people of the Sysells of Mule in the north-east were ignorant of it. In the western parts, the noise accompanying the eruption was distinctly heard, like the rolling of distant thunder. Nothing was heard at Beikiavik.

Accounts from Copenhagen appear in some degree to corroborate the statement which is mentioned in the English papers, of the probability that a severe volcanic eruption had occurred in Iceland.—Vessels recently arrived in Danish ports from the vicinity of that northern island appear at different periods to have been visited by showers of combustible matter, which can in no other way be accounted for; and direct arrivals from Iceland are anxiously looked for.

Gold may be beat into leaves so thin that 280,000 will be only an inch thick.

FRANCE.—The French papers contain despatches from several General officers commanding in Algeria, which confirm the account previously published, that a detachment of 200 men had been compelled to surrender to the troops of Abd-el-Kader. Those despatches show that the writers were actively engaged with the Kabyles and Arabs, but that they were proceeding satisfactorily. Government was said to be in possession of letters from General Cavignac, affirming that the insurrection was confined to the province of Oran, and that he had no alarm for the consequences.

France has only about 200,000 persons possessing the elective franchise; yet, exclusive of the army and navy she has 376,483 *employes* paid by the budget. No country in the world, with the exception perhaps of Spain, has so many persons employed in the different departments of the Government; but they are for the most part wretchedly paid.

A letter from Madrid, in the Times of the 19th, dated October 7, affirms that the British Cabinet has formally notified those of France and Spain that the Queen's sister cannot be allowed to marry the Duke de Montpensier, the youngest son of Louis Phillipe. The Cabinets of Russia, Prussia, Austria, and Portugal are declared to be alike opposed to the marriage. Oddly enough, the same letter asserts that the alliance was agreed on between Queen Victoria and King Louis Phillipe, during the last visit of the former at Fu.

THE VINTAGE IN PORTUGAL.—The Douro vintage is reported to be almost a complete failure this year, the grapes are rotten in some parts, and quite green in others, owing to the variable weather during the summer, and the late heavy rains.

A vessel called the George Palmer, arrived at Liverpool with a cargo of 200 tons of guano, and 100 tons of substance which, it is believed, is chrystalyzed ammonia.

The present House of Commons may continue in being until the autumn of 1847, and from actual appearance, there is no reason to suppose that it will be dissolved much before that time.

The Hamburg Gazette states, from Riga, that the cholera has appeared in Livonia, and caused many deaths.

Mrs. Fry, who for so many years devoted her time and her purse to meliorate the miseries of the inmates of various prisons, died last month, after a protracted illness.

The Constitutional states that the Prince de Joinville is to have a command in the approaching campaign, and that he is to cruise before Tangier and Magadore to protect the subjects of France.

A vessel arrived in the Thames with a cargo of Dutch cheese, having upwards of 34,000 of them.

In Paris there are 396 newspapers, with 700,000 subscribers, and in the departments of France 898, with about 350,000 subscribers.

JUVENILE DEPARTMENT.

THE SOLAN GOOSE.

From Martin's Voyage to St. Kilda.

The Solan goose equals a common goose in bigness. It is by measure from the tip of the bill to the extremity of the foot, thirty-four inches long, and to the end of the tail thirty-nine; the wings extend very far, there being seventy-two inches distance between the extreme tips; its bill is long, straight, of a dark color, a little crooked at the point; behind the eyes the skin at the side of the head is bare of feathers, the ears small, the eyes hazel-colored; it has four toes, the feet and legs black as far as they are bare; the plumage is that of a goose. The color of the old ones is white all over, excepting the extreme tip of the wings which are black, and the top of the head, which is yellow, as some think the effect of age. The young ones are of a dark brown color, turning white after they are a year old; its egg is somewhat less than that of a land goose, small at each end, and casts a thick scarf, and has little or no yolk; the inhabitants are accustomed to drink it raw, having from experience found it very pectoral and cephalic.

The Solan geese hatch by turns. When it returns from fishing it carries five or six herrings in its gorget, all entire and undigested: upon its arrival at the nest, the hatching fowl put its head in the fisher's throat, and pulls out the fish with its bill as with a pincer, and that with a very great noise, which I had occasion frequently to observe. They continue to pluck grass for their nests from their coming in March till the young fowl is ready to fly in August or September, according as the inhabitants take or leave the first or second eggs.

It is remarkable they never pluck grass but on a windy day; the reason the inhabitants give for this is, that a windy day is their vacation from fishing, and they bestow it upon this employment, which proves fatal to many of them; for after their fatigue, they often fall asleep, and the inhabitants, taking the opportunity, are ready at hand to knock them on the head. Their food is chiefly herring and mackarel. English hooks are often found in the stomachs of both young and old

Solan geese, though none of these kind are used nearer than the isles twenty leagues distant; this may happen either from the fish pulling away the hooks from those isles, and then going to St. Kilda, or by their being carried thither by the old geese.

The Solan geese have always some of their number keeping centry in the night, and if they are surprised, as it often happens, all the flock are taken one after another; but if the centinel be awake at the approach of the creeping fowlers, and hear a noise, it cries softly grog, grog, at which the flock move not; but if the centinel sees or hears the fowler approaching, he cries bir, bir, which should seem to import danger, since immediately after the whole tribe takes wing, leaving the fowler alone on the rock, to return home, all his labor for that night being spent in vain. Besides this way of stealing upon them in the night time, they are also caught in common Gins of horse-hair, from which they struggle less to extricate themselves than any other fowl, notwithstanding their size and strength, they are also caught in the herring loches with a board set on purpose to float above water, upon it a herring is fixed, which the goose perceiving, flies up to a competent height, till finding himself in a straight line above the fish, bends his course perpendicularly, piercing the air as an arrow from a bow, hits the board, into which he runs his bill with all his force, and is irrecoverably taken.

Receipt No. 1 of the cook of the late Sir Joseph Banks.

BOSTON PUDDING.

Peel $1\frac{1}{2}$ dozen good apples, take out the cores, cut them small, put them into a stew-pan, which will just hold them, with a little water, and a little cinnamon and cloves, and the peel of a lemon; stew over a slow fire till quite soft, then sweeten with moist sugar, and pass it through a hair sieve; a pound of good butter, half a nutmeg, the peel of a lemon grated, and the juice of one lemon, beat all well together; line the inside of the pie dish with good puff paste. Bake it half an hour.

ASTRONOMICAL.—All the planets, except mercury, are now above our horizon at 7 in the evening, and four can be seen with the naked eye: Jupiter in the east, Mars in the Southeast, Saturn a few degrees farther west, and Venus in the Southwest. Between Jupiter and Mars, Herschel holds its course, but is not distinguishable without telescopic assistance.—*Selected.*

FLIGHT OF A PROPHECY.—William Smith of the Patriarch's family has fled from Nauvoo, and is now in St. Louis, under the protection of some friends. The patriarch expresses the opinion that Young and those acting with him have been privy to all of the crimes which have been perpetrated in Nauvoo.

POETRY.

For the American Penny Magazine.

When seated at life's banquet feast,
Pleasures before us spread,
How oft intrudes that quiet guest,
The mem'ry of the dead!

The dead, our long lost sleeping dead,
Dear friends once from us torn;
How rises each cold pillow'd head,
With looks which once were worn!

How life-like are those pleasing smiles,
Those brilliant eyes, that seem
To pierce the heart that now beguiles
'Tis sorrows in the dream!

We turn with open arms to clasp;
But effort breaks the charm;
Oh God! eludes our searching grasp
That dear returning form!

In vain we stifle tears that blind,
In vain we turn away,
'Tis truth, 'tis mournful truth we find
In solemn stern array.

Ah thus we dream and thus we grieve,
And thus we backward tread,
As often comes, without our leave,
The mem'ry of the dead.

J. M.

A Home Without a Sister.

Who, that has been deprived of a sister, can reflect upon the closing scenes of her mortal existence, without the deepest sorrow and sadness of heart? A month, perhaps a short week since, and she was among the living; there was the same cheerful countenance; the same joyous spirit; the same care and thought for the interest of those whose happy lot it was to enjoy her society. But she is gone, and how sad the change! The returning brother will meet no more her welcome smile. He visits the home of his childhood with a heavy heart. He approaches the threshold, and looks upon a stranger's countenance; he listens, and a stranger's voice falls upon his ear. He fancies, for once that it is all a dream; he passes from chamber to chamber, seeking in vain for the departed one. She is not there! Oh! what agony fills his breast! what melancholy is resting upon his spirit! His once happy home has now no charms, no comforts, no allurements for him.

"This is the desert, this the solitude:
The vale funeral, the sad cypress gloom."

It may be an index of a weak mind (in the opinion of some) to weep on such an occasion; but weeping is the readiest relief to a heart too full for utterance.

"Flow forth afresh my tears."

To him who is still the recipient of a sister's kindness and attention; a sharer in her

sympathies, her love and affections, these thoughts may seem idle and visionary; but they are sad, sober truths, and in a mourning brother, one who has been brought to feel too keenly the pangs of sundered ties of sisterly affection, cannot doubt their reality.

—(Selected.)

LAKE SUPERIOR MINES.—A correspondent of the Cleveland Herald writes from the Sault St. Marie as follows:—

"I have seen heading towards this mineral region ex-Cabinet Ministers and Governors, Congressmen and Professors, Bankers and Capitalists, Adventurers, Woodmen and Miners; and I have seen them on their return with their 'pockets full of rocks.'—That this region abounds in copper ore to an inexhaustible extent, and of a quality vastly superior to any elsewhere discovered, are not matters of conjecture. This is now positively known, and that gold and silver also abound, recent explorations abundantly establish. In this greedy scramble for sudden wealth, in which all men are more or less inclined to engage, some will obtain it and others will be disappointed. But the existence and locality of this mineral wealth are no new discovery. In 1650, *Father Allouez* heard of the existence of a 'mass of pure copper' on the Southern shore of Lake Superior, and searched for it.—And as early as 1721, says Charlevoix, the bracelets of the Indians, the candlesticks, crosses and censers were made for the use of the Church, by a goldsmith at the "Sault," from the masses of pure copper found on the shore of Lake Superior."

SENDING ICE TO CHINA.—The ship *Areatus*, from Boston, for Hong Kong, carries out a cargo of ice, the first regular cargo, we believe, which has ever gone from this country to China. Ice houses have been set up at Hong-Kong, and arrangements made for the reception and sale of American ice in the Celestial Empire. She *Areatus* takes out about 600 tons—all of it "Wenham Lake" ice.

MANUFACTURES IN GEORGIA.—The *Chatahoochie* has now in the course of erection on its banks several fine establishments. The *Columbus Enquirer* says:—The manufacturing excitement is rather on the increase.

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